

CLAIMS

1. A method of changing an assembly line between the manufacture of two different products comprising the steps of:

1) identifying assembly line components which must be changed to change between the manufacture of the two distinct products;

2) preparing an animation showing the steps which should be taken by a number of individuals associated with the changeover to effect the changeover; and

3) showing the animation to the individuals prior to the changeover to assist in providing instruction to the individuals of the steps necessary during the changeover.

2. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the animation is unique for the changeover between two products.

3. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the animation includes a representation of icons associated with each of the workers involved in the change, and instructions for any one of the workers are selectively provided as part of the animation.

4. A method as set forth in Claim 4, wherein the animation is a computer animation, and the workers may select an icon associated with the individual workers to highlight the instructions for the particular worker.

5. A method as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a timeline is provided along with the animation to provide feedback of the order and timing for the particular steps involved in the changeover.

6. A method as set forth in Claim 5, wherein the animation is utilized during the changeover process to provide feedback on the process compared to the prediction of the changeover time.

7. A moving visual instructional animation comprising:

a schematic representation of an assembly line which is to be changed;

a number of visual icons associated with individuals who are to effect a changeover, the visual icons moving through a sequence of steps which are to be taken during the changeover to effect the changeover; and

a timeline provided as part of the animation to provide instruction of the timing for each of the steps.

8. An animation as set forth in Claim 7, wherein the animation is provided as a computer animation.

9. An animation as recited in Claim 7, wherein the icons are color-coded icons having representations distinct for several of the workers.

10. An animation as recited in Claim 9, wherein individual instructional sheets are provided within the animation and are coded to the coding providing for each of the workers such that the workers can review the instruction sheets.

11. A system for instructing a plurality of workers in a changeover comprising:

an animation showing steps to be taken during a changeover, said animation including a schematic representation of an assembly line, and said animation including a number of representations of the workers which are to effect the changeover, the representations of the worker being coded such that distinct workers can identify themselves in the movie; and

identifying instructional sheets to be carried by each of the workers, the instructional sheets being coded to be similar to the representations in the animation.

12. A system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the representations and the sheets are color-coded for the individual workers.

13. A system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein a timeline is included in the animation and shows the steps to be taken at particular periods of time during the changeover.

14. A system as set forth in Claim 13, wherein the timeline further shows a representation of when the last of the prior products should be manufactured and the first of the new products should be manufactured.

15. An instructional system for providing instructions to a plurality of workers on an assembly line comprising:

a plurality of color-coded instructions, each of the color-coded instructions being provided with instructional steps which are to be taken by the worker during a changeover; and

each of the workers on a changeover being associated with a particular color coding and provided with a badge.

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16. A method of predicting a changeover time between the manufacture of two distinct products on an assembly line comprising the steps of:

- 1) preparing a chart associating the number of components to be changed in an assembly line between two products with a required changeover time;
- 2) identifying the number of components which must be changed between the two products; and
- 3) predicting the required changeover time based upon the chart.

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